

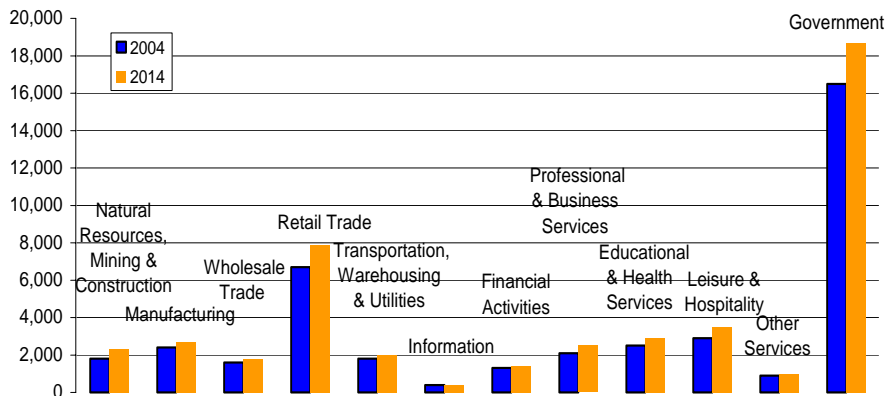
Imperial County Projection Highlights

Industry

Total employment in Imperial County is expected to have an average annual growth of 1.2 percent between 2004 and 2014. This growth rate is slightly below the California growth rate of 1.6 percent annually. Projection figures now include Farm employment (increasing at a 0.4 percent annual rate), Self-employment (increasing slightly at a 0.3 percent annual rate), and Unpaid Family Workers, (no change). The overall growth will add 6,700 new jobs and bring Imperial's employment to just less than 62,000 by 2014. Over half of all new Nonfarm jobs (6,200) are forecasted to occur in Government (2,200) and Retail Trade (1,200). Government is by far the largest industry in Imperial County with future growth driven by local public education and increase in State and Federal programs.

Natural Resources, Mining and Construction (annual 2.8 percent) Industry and Leisure and Hospitality (2.1 percent) are the fastest growing major industry sectors. Other industries growing much faster than the overall county average of 1.2 percent are: Professional and Business Services (1.9 percent), Retail Trade (1.7 percent), and Education and Health Services (1.6 percent).

Below is a graph of the 2004 and projected 2014 employment for major industry sectors in Imperial County.



Occupations

Occupational projections for the period 2004 to 2014 forecast:

- Over 6,700 new jobs from industry growth,
- Just over 13,800 job openings from Net Replacements,
- A combined total of almost 20,600 job openings.

The top 50 occupations with the most job openings will generate almost 65 percent of all job openings in Imperial County during the 2004-2014 period. These occupations are expected to generate almost 13,500 total job openings. The majority of these occupations (88 percent) require on-the-job-training and are typically lower paying, entry level occupations such as Farmworkers and Laborers, Cashiers, Retail Salespersons, Combined Food Prep Workers, and General Office Clerks. The median wage for this group is \$10.68 an hour. Higher-skilled and higher paying occupations such as Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers, Correctional Officers and Jailers, Elementary and Secondary School Teachers, and Registered Nurses are also forecasted to have a substantial number of job openings over the ten year period. All these jobs require education beyond high school and have a median wage of \$32.80 an hour.

The fastest growing occupations are all expected to grow at an annual rate of 1.3 percent or more. Of the fastest growing occupations listed, 78 percent, require on-the-job-training and have a median wage of \$12.71 per hour. These would include jobs found in Retail Sales and Food industry fields. A few occupations (police, firefighters and managers) pay over \$20 per hour. The other 22 percent require an education beyond high school and have a median wage of \$31.36 per hour. These generally include those in the teaching and the medical fields.

